

IN THE CLAIMS

The status of each claim in the present application is listed below.

1. (Currently Amended) A polychloroprene latex composition obtained by emulsion polymerization of chloroprene alone or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and a polyoxyethylene alkyl ether ~~nonionic emulsifier~~,

wherein the mass ratio of the polyvinyl alcohol to the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether is 50/50 to 1/99.

Claims 2 and 3: (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether ~~nonionic emulsifier~~ has a HLB value of from 14 to 19.

5. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

6. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1 ~~to 3~~, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol is one having a saponification degree of from 60 to 98 mol%.

7. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1-~~to 3~~, wherein the total amount of the polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier is from 1 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of chloroprene alone, or the total amount of chloroprene and the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, ~~and the ratio (mass ratio) of the polyvinyl alcohol/the nonionic emulsifier is within a range of from 0.5/99.5 to 99.5/0.5.~~

8. (Currently Amended) The polychloroprene latex composition according to any one of Claims 1-~~to 3~~, which has a solid content concentration of from 45 to 75 mass%.

9. (Original) The polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 8, which has a pH of from 6 to 9, and a viscosity of from 5 to 5,000 mPa·s.

10. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in any one of Claims 1-~~to 3~~.

11. (Withdrawn; Original) The adhesive according to Claim 10, wherein the gel content (toluene-insoluble matter) of a (co)polymer contained in the polychloroprene latex composition is from 3 to 30 mass%.

12. (Withdrawn; Currently Amended) A coating agent employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in any one of Claims 1-~~to 3~~.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for producing the ~~the~~ [[a]] polychloroprene latex composition according to Claim 10, which comprises emulsion polymerization of

chloroprene alone, or chloroprene and a monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, in the presence of a polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether ~~a nonionic emulsifier~~.

14. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized alone.

15. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) An adhesive employing the polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 1, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized with the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene.

Claims 16 and 17: (Canceled).

18. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether ~~nonionic emulsifier~~ has a HLB value of from 14 to 19.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene is an ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the polyvinyl alcohol has a saponification degree of from 60 to 98 mol%.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the total amount of the polyvinyl alcohol and the polyoxyethylene alkyl ether nonionic emulsifier is from 1 to 10 parts by mass, per 100 parts by mass of chloroprene alone, or the total amount of chloroprene and the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene, ~~and the ratio (mass ratio) of the polyvinyl alcohol/the nonionic emulsifier is within a range of from 0.5/99.5 to 99.5/0.5.~~

22. (Withdrawn; Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized alone.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a polychloroprene latex composition as defined in Claim 13, wherein the chloroprene is polymerized with the monomer copolymerizable with chloroprene.